



*Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Woodstove Replacement Incentive Program
Handbook*

This program is only eligible to residents of the *Placer County portion of the Lake Tahoe Air Basin*. The funding for this program is derived from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for the purposes of reducing particulate matter from wood burning appliances within the Lake Tahoe Air Basin.

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Placer County Air Pollution Control District Mission Statement

On April 13, 2000 the Board of Directors of the Placer County Air Pollution Control (District) adopted the following Mission Statement:

The mission of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District is to manage the county's air quality in a manner to protect and promote public health by controlling and seeking reductions of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the economic and environmental impacts.

Among the Goals/Objectives of the District are:

1. Regulate air pollutant emissions from stationary sources.
2. Mitigate effects of growth through quality planning measures.
3. Pool resources with other agencies, districts, and jurisdictions.
4. Market and promote the positive impacts the District is making on the air quality in the county.
5. Improve District business processes and internal operations so as to provide cost effective and quality service to the citizens and industry of Placer County.

Role of Rule 225, Wood Burning Appliances, in District's Mission

As the temperatures begin to drop in the fall, the daylight hours grow shorter and the celebration of Thanksgiving and the holiday season unfolds, the first fire of the year crackles in the hearths and woodstoves of Placer County homes and businesses. As wonderful as it may be to enjoy a winter fire, risks to air quality and public health increase due to the burning of wood in winter months.

More so in winter months, Placer County's air contains particulate matter (PM), a mixture of small liquid droplets and solid particles that are suspended in the air, in levels deemed unhealthy by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB). According to the EPA, health studies have linked exposure to PM, especially fine particles, to several significant health problems, including:

- Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing;
- Decreased lung function;
- Aggravated asthma;
- Development of chronic bronchitis;
- Irregular heartbeat;
- Nonfatal heart attacks; and
- Premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

In November 2004, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a list of control measures under Senate Bill 656 that could be used to reduce PM emissions in California air districts. Due to SB 656 and the need to reduce PM, the District amended existing Rule 225 to be County wide and to include the following conditions:

1. Prohibit the installation of any new, permanently installed, indoor or outdoor, uncontrolled wood burning

2. Require that all installations of any wood burning appliances be U.S. EPA Phase II certified, or equivalent
3. Require proper operation of all wood burning appliances
4. Require distribution of educational information about wood burning at point of sale of new wood burning appliances, beginning January 1, 2009
5. Prohibit burning of garbage and other items not intended for use as a fuel
6. Requires that all visible smoke from wood burning appliances not exceed a 20% opacity, except for startup
7. Require that all non-certified free standing wood stoves be rendered inoperable upon point-of-sale of real property, beginning January 1, 2012.

For a complete copy of Rule 225, go to www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Air/Rules.aspx.

Funding Sources:

Through a Board approved agreement, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), has agreed to provide funds to the District for the purposes of implementing a wood stove change-out program on their behalf. As a result, \$20,187 has been made available for vouchers. Since the funds have been provided by TRPA, only appliance upgrades located within the Placer County portion of the Lake Tahoe Air Basin will be considered for eligibility. There are no funds available for other areas of the county at this time.

The District will initially provide vouchers to eligible property owners in amounts up to \$650, limited to one appliance replacement per property per year. The rebate incentive amounts are subject to change without notice based on demand for vouchers and available funding. Rebate amounts also cannot exceed the cost of the appliance.

Program Definitions:

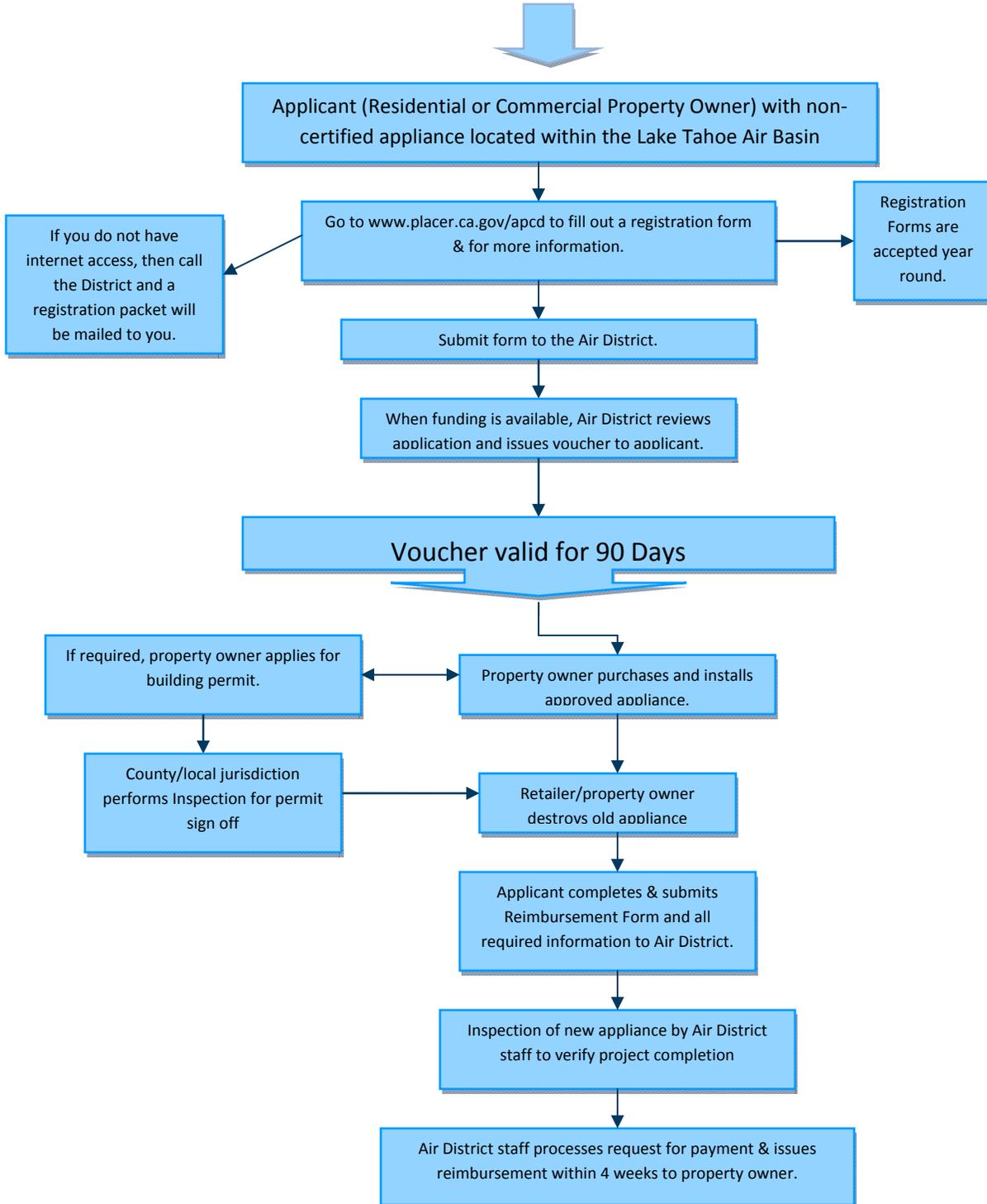
1. Appliance: In this instance, any wood stove (free standing or zero clearance), fireplace insert (gas or wood), pellet stove, fire place or any other heating device associated with this program.
2. Applicant: The Applicant must be the legal owner of the property which contains the noncertified appliance being replaced by this program and have the legal authority to participate in this program.
3. EPA Phase II: Any wood burning appliance that meets current EPA emission standards for particulate matter. An EPA Phase II certified wood burning appliance must not exceed an emission rating of 7.5 grams per hour.
4. Lake Tahoe Air Basin: That portion of Placer County within the drainage area naturally tributary to Lake Tahoe including said Lake, plus that area in the vicinity of the head of the Truckee River described as follows: commencing at the point common to the aforementioned drainage area crest line and the line common to Townships 15 North and 16 North, M.D.B. & M., and following that line in a westerly direction to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 15 North, Range 16 East, M.D.B. & M., thence south along the west line of Sections 3 and 10, Township 15 North, Range 16 East, M.D.B. & M., to the intersection with the said drainage area crestline, thence following the said drainage area boundary in a southeasterly, then northeasterly direction to and along the Lake Tahoe Dam, thence following the said drainage area crest line in a northeasterly, then northwesterly direction to the point of beginning.
5. Non-certified (uncontrolled): Any appliance that does not meet the definition of an EPA Phase II certified appliance.
6. Masonry Fireplace: A brick or stone fire place that is not prefabricated or manufactured, typically with a sheet metal firebox.

7. Primary Residence: A residence which is occupied year round by an owner or tenant and is not a second home or vacation home.
8. Render inoperable: an appliance with at least a two inch hole in the fire box or to where the appliance is rendered permanently and irreversibly inoperable.
9. Retailer: In this instance, any retailer or vendor selling EPA certified Phase II wood burning appliances, gas appliances, or pellet stoves.
10. Voucher: A Form issued by the District to the Applicant which authorizes the Applicant to purchase a new appliance under this program and receive incentive funding.



Wood Stove Replacement Program Overview

A program funded by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District



About the Program

Property Owner Eligibility

The goal of the Burn Bright Burn Right Wood Stove Replacement Program is to encourage owners of residential and commercial property to replace non-EPA certified wood burning appliances with newer and cleaner burning EPA Phase II Certified wood burning appliances, gas appliances, or pellet stoves. Replacing non-certified wood burning appliances with an EPA Phase II Certified stove/insert, pellet stove, or gas stove will help to reduce particulate matter within the air and help the District maintain compliance with state and federal standards for PM.

Rebate Amounts: As an incentive to replace existing non-certified wood stoves or open hearth fireplaces, the District is offering **up to** \$650 to property owners with primary residences located within the Placer County portion of the Lake Tahoe Air Basin.

Each Applicant that applies for and receives incentive funding may be issued a 1099 Form at the end of the year. This means that the funds awarded to an Applicant may be considered taxable income.

Eligibility: The following individuals are eligible to apply for a voucher:

1. Property owners of a year round permanent residence which includes an operational non-EPA Phase II Certified wood burning appliance (wood stove, fireplace, or insert) located within the Placer County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin.
2. Property owners of a residence, which includes a non-EPA Phase II Certified **free standing** wood stove, which meet the following conditions: The property is currently 1) not for sale nor will it be within the next four months, 2) not in escrow, and 3) not in the process of being transferred in name. (Current regulations prohibit the use of incentive funds in these instances. This condition does not apply to individuals who wish to upgrade a fireplace or insert.)

Issuing of Vouchers: Applications for registration can be submitted to the District and will be processed in the order received. Vouchers are first come first serve. Once the funds have been fully allocated, the voucher application period will close and any applicant who submitted an application but did not receive a voucher will be notified. **The District will only issue a voucher if there is available funding.**

Three Main Phases to the Program

Applicant Registers → Voucher Issued to Applicant → Applicant Reimbursed

General Guidelines

Program Requirements for Property Owners and Retailers:

1. The residence which contains a currently installed operational non-certified wood burning appliance must be located in the Placer County portion of the Lake Tahoe Air Basin.
2. The residence with the non-certified appliance must be a primary residence. Vacation rentals and second homes are not eligible for funding.

3. The Applicant must be the legal owner of the property which contains the currently installed and operational non-certified appliance being replaced by this program and have the legal authority to participate in this program.
4. Applicant is responsible for meeting **all** program requirements and for complying with his/her state/county/civic government and/or home owner association (if any) requirements in his/her area regarding local conditions, restrictions, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations prior to installation.
5. New EPA Phase II Certified wood stoves/inserts, pellet stoves, or gas stoves/insert (excluding gas logs) are allowed to be purchased and installed under this program. EPA Certified Exempt and Phase II Qualified appliances are not eligible for funding and may be illegal to install.
6. All Forms must be either hand delivered or mailed to the District. No faxes or emails.
7. Applicant must give authorization to Placer County Air Pollution Control District staff to conduct all necessary on site inspections of the old appliance being replaced and of the new installed appliance, in order to verify that the requirements of this program have been met.
8. To be considered for a voucher the Applicant must submit an original completed Registration Packet. Incomplete applications may lead to program disqualification.
9. Pending available funding and eligibility, a voucher will be issued for the purchase of a new EPA Phase II Certified woodstove/insert, pellet stove, or a gas stove. A voucher will not be issued to an applicant that has already purchased a new appliance. In other words, vouchers are not retroactive.
10. A voucher will expire 90 days after date of voucher issuance and it will only remain valid if all requirements of this program are met.
11. If an applicant receives a voucher at least twice and fails to follow through with the program, then the applicant is no longer qualified to participate in the program.
12. The new appliance may be bought at any retailer; however, all participating retailers must sign and agree to the program guidelines and the Retailer's Agreement Form at time of purchase.
13. Retailer agrees not to inflate appliance prices due to the vouchers issued under this program.
14. The property owner or retailer must certify proper disposal of the old appliance before Applicant can receive rebate check. The old appliance being replaced under this program must be kept on site prior to disposal for at least 30 days to allow for inspection by District staff.
15. Participating retailers are expected to help the Applicant properly understand the program requirements during all stages of this program.
16. The old appliance being replaced under this program cannot be resold, re-used, given away, or salvaged. It must be rendered inoperable.
17. Requests for Payment that are mailed must be post marked by the expiration date of the voucher.
18. The District will process rebate payments within 30 days of receiving a complete final request for payment.
19. The rebate is paid directly to the Applicant after all the requirements of this program have been met and after verification that the new appliance has been paid for and installed.
20. Vouchers cannot be transferred.
21. Applicant waives any claims against the Placer County Air Pollution Control District arising out of participation in this program or arising out of the installation and/or use of the heating appliance funded through this program.
22. This program is "first come first serve" and incentive funds are not guaranteed.

23. The District makes no representations regarding retailers, manufacturers, dealers, contractors, materials, and workmanship.
24. Fraud or misrepresentation will result in automatic disqualification or return of voucher funds to the District if funding has already been issued.
25. Voucher amount cannot exceed the amount of new appliance purchase.
26. Voucher amount cannot be applied to installation costs, stove piping, or any other expense accrued due to the participation in this program.
27. **This program is not retroactive. An Applicant must receive a voucher from the District prior to appliance purchase.**
28. Only one appliance upgrade per property per year.
29. The District is not responsible for items lost or destroyed in the mail.

Building Permit and Inspection Requirements

The homeowner or commercial property owner (Applicant) may be required to obtain a building permit when replacing a wood burning appliance. If a permit is required, the Applicant should contact the Building Department in the local jurisdiction where the installation of the new appliance is taking place to ensure all requirements as well as necessary inspections are complied with. The County or local jurisdiction may require additional permit and inspection fees related to the installation of the wood stove or other appliance funded through this program. It is the property owner's responsibility to comply with all local regulations and requirements when installing an appliance.

An inspection by District staff may also be necessary in order to verify the type of appliance an Applicant has or to verify compliance with program requirements. Applicants and retailers will be required to allow District staff authorization for routine inspections.

Disposal of Old Appliance

All appliances replaced under this program must be rendered inoperable. This requirement excludes masonry fireplaces, which cannot be easily destroyed. Proper appliance destruction can consist of knocking at least a two inch hole through the firebox and/or taking it to a recycler/dump to be recycled. This can be done by either the Retailer or Applicant. In either case, the old appliance must be made available for inspection for up to 30 days, and be labeled with the voucher number. If a Retailer wishes not to keep the old appliance, then the door, labeled with the voucher number will be sufficient for at least 30 days. If an Applicant is disposing of the old appliance, then the entire appliance must be made available for 30 days for inspection.

Retailer Obligations:

Heating appliance retailers who sell EPA Phase II Certified woodstoves/inserts, gas appliances, and pellet stoves are eligible to participate in the District's Burn Bright Burn Right program.

When an Applicant is issued a voucher, a Retailer Certification Form is provided with it. At the time of Appliance sale, the Applicant is to provide to the Retailer the Form. The Form is to be filled out at time of sale or any time thereafter. Additional Retailer Certification Forms can be downloaded off the District's website at www.placer.ca.gov/apcd. Without a signed Retailer Certification Form, an Applicant will not receive reimbursement. There are no pre-registration requirements for retailers in this program.

Failure to meet program criteria and guidelines will disqualify any or all of the retailer's customers from receiving a rebate.